

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-36 without prejudice and add new claims 37-61 as follows.

1 – 36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) A method for loading files for operating a hardware device detected by an operating system of a computing system comprising:

requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating the hardware device;

accessing a root directory of the location provided by the user to find an installer and one or more driver files for the hardware device;

launching the installer for the hardware device;

loading one or more of the driver files for the hardware device;

identifying the operating system;

modifying a registry of the operating system to direct the operating system to a location of one or more additional files for operating the hardware device;

redetecting the hardware device;

preventing the operating system from rerequesting user input for a location of one or more files to operate the hardware device;

accessing the one or more additional files for operating the hardware device using the modified registry; and

loading the one or more additional files for operating the hardware device.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating the hardware device comprises requesting user input for a location of a storage device containing one or more files for operating the hardware device.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein requesting user input for a location of a storage device containing one or more files for operating the hardware device comprises requesting user input for a location of a removable storage device containing one or more files for operating the hardware device.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating the hardware device comprises requesting user input for a network location containing one or more files for operating the hardware device.

41. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the hardware device is a Plug-and-Play hardware device.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the Plug-and-Play hardware device is a Plug-and-Play network adapter.

43. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the hardware device is a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) network adapter.

44. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the hardware device is a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) network adapter.

45. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the hardware device is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) network adapter.

46. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein identifying the operating system comprises identifying a language of the operating system.

47. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein identifying the operating system comprises identifying a version of the operating system.

48. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein redetecting the hardware device comprises restarting the computing system.

49. (New) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a hardware device detected by an operating system;

accessing a root directory of the location provided by the user to find an installer and one or more driver files for the hardware device;

launching the installer for the hardware device;

loading one or more of the driver files for the hardware device;

identifying the operating system;

modifying a registry of the operating system to direct the operating system to a location of one or more additional files for operating the hardware device;

redetecting the hardware device;

preventing the operating system from rerequesting user input for a location of one or more files to operate the hardware device;

accessing the one or more additional files for operating the hardware device using the modified registry; and

loading the one or more additional files for operating the hardware device.

50. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 49, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of a storage device containing one or more files for operating a hardware device.

51. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 50, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of a storage device containing one or more files for operating a hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of a removable storage device containing one or more files for operating a hardware device.

52. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 49, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a network location containing one or more files for operating a hardware device.

53. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 49, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Plug-and-Play hardware device.

54. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 53, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Plug-and-Play hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Plug-and-Play network adapter.

55. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 53, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Plug-and-Play

hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Universal Serial Bus (USB) Plug-and-Play hardware device.

56. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 55, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a USB Plug-and-Play hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a USB Plug-and-Play network adapter.

57. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 53, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Plug-and-Play hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of a storage device containing one or more files for operating a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) network adapter.

58. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 53, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Plug-and-Play hardware device comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed

by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of a storage device containing one or more files for operating a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) network adapter.

59. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 49, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a hardware device detected by an operating system comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising requesting user input for a location of one or more files for operating a Plug-and-Play hardware device detected by a Plug-and-Play compliant operating system.

60. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 49, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising identifying the operating system comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising identifying a language of the operating system.

61. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 60, wherein a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising identifying the operating system comprises a machine accessible medium comprising content that when accessed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising identifying a version of the operating system.